

# NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

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June 7, 1981



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**ORDER OF EXERCISE**

Dr. John V. Thornton, Presiding  
*Chairman of the Board*

*Ninety-fourth Psalm*

Julius Reubke

- I. Grave
- II. Larghetto — Allegro con fuoco
- III. Adagio
- IV. Allegro

Christopher C. Donges  
*Organist*

**PROCESSIONAL\***

*Pomp and Circumstance No. 1, op. 39*

Sir Edward Elgar

**INVOCATION**

Dr. Neil Gillman  
*Dean of the Rabbinical School*  
*The Jewish Theological Seminary of America*

**THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Francis Scott Key

Rosalind Elias  
*Soloist*

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*Founder and Editor of the "National Review"*

William J. Casey  
*Director of the Central Intelligence*

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*Dean of New York Law School*  
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*Introduction of Candidates by Associate Dean*  
Margaret S. Bearn

*Presentation of Candidates by Dean*  
E. Donald Shapiro

*Conferring of Degrees by*  
Dr. John V. Thornton

BENEDICTION

Dr. Neil Gillman  
*Dean of the Rabbinical School*  
*The Jewish Theological Seminary of America*

RECESSIONAL\*

*Toccata from The Fifth Symphony*

Charles Marie Widor

*\*The audience is requested to remain seated during the Processional and Recessional.*

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HUMAN RIGHTS is the official publication of the American Bar Association Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities edited by New York Law School.

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### MARIO M. BIAGGI

The hallmark of a law school lies in the accomplishments of its graduates. Since his graduation from New York Law School in 1963, Mario M. Biaggi, United States Congressman for the 10th Congressional District, has served his profession, his community, and his nation with vigor, initiative, and compassion.

Congressman Biaggi is one of three sons of a marble setter who waged an uphill battle during the Depression. Upon completing his high school degree, he was a post office letter carrier from 1936 until 1942, when he left to join the New York City Police Department, where he rose through the ranks from patrolman to detective lieutenant. Wounded ten times, Congressman Biaggi won many departmental honors including the highest award, the Medal of Honor. To many of his constituents, he is known as the most decorated police officer in the nation, and he is the only policeman in the State of New York to be selected for the National Police Hall of Fame for Valor.

Admitted to the New York Bar in 1967 and following the formation of the law partnership of Biaggi, Ehrlich and Lang, he was first elected to the House of Representatives in November, 1968. The first Democrat in 16 years to win in a traditionally Republican stronghold, he has won re-election ever since, capturing over 91 percent of the vote in his most recent election.

His numerous legislative accomplishments include the establishment of a national policy concerning the rights of the elderly and handicapped persons to mass transit services; providing special education and ethnic heritage studies programs for children; and setting up an oil spill liability fund to protect ocean resources.

In the field of foreign affairs, he has championed human rights for all peoples, especially Soviet Jews. Congressman Biaggi has fostered humanitarian legislation to provide aid to Italy after the earthquake and to Cyprus after the Turkish invasion. Indeed, he is presently seeking a resolution to the Northern Ireland situation as Chairman of the Ad-Hoc Congressional Committee on Irish Affairs. A respected leader in Congress, he chairs the Subcommittee on Federal, State and Community Services for the Aging, and the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Navigation. He is the ranking New York member on the Education and Labor Committee and is a member of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control.

Mario M. Biaggi, inspired public servant and protector of the disadvantaged, in recognition of your outstanding achievements, the Trustees of New York Law School are pleased and honored to confer upon you the degree of doctor of laws *honoris causa* with all the rights, privileges and honors thereunto appertaining.

**WILLIAM FRANK BUCKLEY, JR.**

Noted publisher, prolific writer, respected commentator and pre-eminent critic, William Frank Buckley, Jr. was born on November 24, 1925 in New York City. Following his graduation from the Millbrook School in 1943, he briefly attended the University of Mexico before being drafted into the Infantry as a Private in 1944; he was honorably discharged with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in 1946. Mr. Buckley then continued his education at Yale University, graduating in 1950 with honors in political science, economics and history. While a student at Yale, he also served as an assistant instructor in Spanish.

His first editorial position was as a member of the editorial staff of the old *American Mercury*, and the rest is recent history. In 1962 he initiated a weekly syndicated column entitled, "On the Right." Since 1964 the column has appeared three times a week and is now syndicated in over 300 newspapers across the country. With his weekly television program "Firing Line," he garnered yet another success. His guests have been presidents and former presidents of the United States, sportsmen, authors, musicians, politicians of every persuasion, and educators, including our own Dean E. Donald Shapiro. All of these activities have been graced by his prodigious intellect, singular wit, and stylistic virtuosity.

In recognition of his many firsts, Mr. Buckley has received a number of prestigious accolades including the Best Columnist of the Year Award in 1967, the University of California's Distinguished Achievement Award in Journalism in 1968, an Emmy for Outstanding Program Achievement in 1969, the Cleveland Amory (TV Guide) Award for Best Interviewer/Interviewee on Television in 1974, Fellow of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi in 1976, the Bellarmine Medal in 1977, the Young Republican National Federation 1979 Americanism Award, and most recently the American Friends of Haifa University Journalism Award in 1980.

The academic community has expressed its admiration and respect for Mr. Buckley by conferring no less than 16 honorary degrees upon him to date. An author of award-winning books, he has touched the hearts and minds not only of his own nation but of the entire literate world. A number of prestigious books on American political theory have benefited from his literary and editorial contributions.

William Frank Buckley, Jr., for your gifted contributions to journalism and contemporary American thought, the Board of Trustees of New York Law School is proud to confer upon you the degree of doctor of laws *honoris causa* with all rights, privileges and honors thereunto appertaining.

### WILLIAM JOSEPH CASEY

William Joseph Casey was sworn in as Director of Central Intelligence on January 28, 1981, the first such Director to be designated by the President as a Cabinet Officer.

After spending his childhood in New York City and Long Island, he attended Fordham University where he subsequently earned a one-year fellowship to the Catholic University School of Social Work in Washington, D.C., and he then graduated from St. John's University Law School and was admitted to the New York bar.

Following law school, he joined the Research Institute of America, rising to become Chairman of the Institute's Board of Editors. He was then commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1943, joining the wartime staff of William Donovan, founder of the Office of Strategic Services. Assigned to the European Theater, Mr. Casey received the Bronze Star for his work in coordinating French Resistance forces in support of the Normandy invasion and the liberation of France. In 1944 he became chief of American Secret Intelligence operations in Europe. In 1948 he served as Associate General Counsel at the European Headquarters of the Marshall Plan. Between 1949 and 1971 he practiced law in New York City.

Recalled to public service in April, 1971, Mr. Casey was designated Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, where he served until February, 1973. He subsequently became Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs and President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States. Returning to private life, he became Counsel to the New York and Washington law firm of Rogers and Wells.

Desirous of upgrading the quality of Intelligence, he was a founding director of the National Strategy Information Center, where he supported the establishment of professorships on 200 campuses in an effort to involve the nation's scholars in the field of intelligence analysis. Indeed, no one appreciates better than does William Casey the varied and complex challenges that confront our nation; the complexities of the political, military, and economic forces with which we must deal as a nation; and still further the importance of effective Intelligence to the formulation and execution of an inspired, yet workable foreign policy.

An author of books on legal and financial subjects as well as a history of the American Revolution, Mr. Casey has received the William J. Donovan Award and honorary degrees from Fordham University, St. John's University, Chung Ang University, Molloy College and Adelphi University.

William Joseph Casey, in recognition of your distinguished achievements in the law and for your inspired dedication to public service, the Board of Trustees of New York Law School is proud to confer upon you the degree of doctor of laws *honoris causa* with all the rights, privileges and honors thereunto appertaining.

**MATTHEW JOSEPH JASEN**

Born in Buffalo, New York on December 13, 1915, Matthew Joseph Jasen, Senior Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, was educated at Canisius College, the University of Buffalo School of Law, and Harvard University School of Civil Affairs. He was admitted to the bar in 1940.

During World War II he fought with the Seventh Army in Europe, serving for three years with distinction and valor in three major campaigns. After completing his assignment as President of the United States Security Review Board for the State of Wurttemberg-Baden, Germany, he accepted an appointment in 1946 as United States Judge for the 3rd Military District at Heidelberg. In 1948 he returned to private practice in Buffalo as Senior Partner in the firm of Jasen, Manz, Johnson and Bayger. In 1957 Governor Averell Harriman appointed him to the New York State Supreme Court for the Eighth Judicial District, and the following year he was elected to a full term. In November, 1967, Judge Jasen ran unopposed and was elected Associate Judge of the Court of Appeals for the State of New York.

An active and involved citizen, Judge Jasen has also served as President of the Lawyers Club of Buffalo, the State University of New York Law Alumni Association, and the Professional and Businessmen's Association of Western New York. Keenly aware of the needs of higher education, he is a Trustee of the Canisius College Chair of Polish Culture and a former Trustee of Nottingham Academy, now a part of the Nichols School of Buffalo. Prior to the merger of the University of Buffalo with the State University of New York, Judge Jasen was elected to its last Council in 1962. In recognition of his profound concern for education, he received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Union University's Albany School of Law and is an honorary fellow of Hilbert College.

His many professional affiliations include the American Law Institute, the American Judicature Society, the National Conference of Appellate Judges, the American Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity, DiGamma Society, the National Advocates Society and the Bishop's Board of Governors for the Diocese of Buffalo.

Long recognized for his outstanding contributions to the profession, Judge Jasen has received numerous awards: the Annual Law Day Award of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association in 1968; the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the State University of New York Alumni Association in 1969; the Distinguished Alumnus Award of the Alumni Association of the State University at Buffalo in 1976; and a citation for "Distinguished Service in the Interests of Justice" from Canisius College in 1978.

Matthew John Jasen, in recognition of your outstanding contribution to education, the bar, and the bench, the Board of Trustees of New York Law School is proud to confer upon you the degree of doctor of laws *honoris causa* with all the rights, privileges and honors thereunto appertaining.

### JAMES SKELLY WRIGHT

In his thirty-two years on the Federal bench, James Skelly Wright has persisted in his pursuit of equal justice under law despite frequently vicious personal and professional opprobrium.

Born in New Orleans in 1911, Judge Wright was educated at Loyola University, earning a Bachelor of Philosophy in 1931 and a Juris Doctor in 1934. Economic considerations compelled him to finish law school in the evening while teaching high school during the day. Due to the limited opportunities awaiting young lawyers in the post-Depression years, he was forced to remain a high school teacher until 1936, when he was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

At the onset of World War II, Judge Wright enlisted in the Coast Guard and, after serving on a submarine chaser, established a disciplinary system for the Merchant Marines. His adroit handling of this assignment earned him a transfer to London, where he served in a similar capacity and with similar distinction on the legal staff of Admiral Stark, Commander of the Navy in London.

After the war, he practiced law in Washington, D.C. and presented two important oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Despite a prospering private practice, he returned to his home state as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Soon thereafter, he was appointed to a vacancy on the Fifth Circuit; his confirmation was a remarkable achievement for a 38-year-old lawyer. In 1962 he was appointed to the Federal Circuit Court for the District of Columbia and became Chief Judge in 1978.

Responsible for more than 1,000 opinions, Judge Wright has made significant contributions to legal doctrine in racial equality, contracts, real property, administrative law, freedom of expression, and criminal law. In *Hobson v. Hansen* he displayed his commitment to eliminating the injustices of racial segregation by banning the so-called "track system" in Washington's public schools. In *Williams v. Walker-Thomas Furniture Company* he demonstrated his interest in protecting the indigent by striking down an unfair adhesion contract between an impoverished mother and a cut-rate store. In *Edwards v. Habib* and later in *Javins v. First National Realty Corporation* he manifested his dedication to securing for the underprivileged of our cities decent places in which to live.

James Skelly Wright, in recognition of your compassionate commitment to the pursuit of justice, the Board of Trustees of New York Law School is proud to confer upon you the degree of doctor of laws *honoris causa* with all the rights, privileges and honors thereunto appertaining.

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